DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO. 1/15

DATA ELEMENT AND CODE STANDARDIZATION FOR
INTELLIGENCE AND INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

(Effective 14 October 1969)

Pursuant to the provisions of NSCID No. 1 (New Series, Revised

4 March 1964), paragraph 3. b. (2), a policy promoting data elements and

code standards for intelligence and intelligence information is hereby

established.

Definitions

1.   This Directive specifically applies to, but is not necessarily limited

to, National Intelligence and Interdepartmental Intelligence as defined in

NSCID No. 1, paragraphs 4. a. and 4. c. respectively.

2.   The definitions of data element, data code, general and program

standards are:[1]

a.   A data element is a grouping of informational units which has a

unique meaning based on a natural or assigned relationship and sub-

categories (data items) of distinct units or values. For example, "month"

is a data element whose data items are "January", "February", "March",

etc.

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[1]Defined in the Bureau of Budget Circular No. A-86, 30 September 1967.

Subject: "Standardization of Data Elements and Codes in Data Systems".

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b. A data code is a number, letter, symbol or any combination thereof used to represent a data element or a data item.

c. Federal program standards are "for use in particular related programs concerning more than one agency. Examples are data elements and codes usually limited to use in...unique systems. In these cases, the same source data often are used by several agencies, and aggregation and exchange of information on a program basis are the rule."

d. Federal general standards are "for general use by most agencies in connection with an extensive number and variety of related or unrelated data systems and programs".

3. For the purpose of this Directive, intelligence falls into the federal program standards area. Intelligence standards fall within and are restricted by the foregoing definitions.

Policy

4. The policy established hereby is to promote the use of standards in the exchange of intelligence and intelligence information to achieve an optimum level of compatibility among information handling systems in the USIB community.

Responsibility

5. The Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC) [2] will establish methods and procedures for developing and maintaining data elements, data

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codes, and related features to be used in the intelligence community. The

development of a U. S. Intelligence Standards Program should:

    a. Be within the framework of the standards program for the

executive branch of the government.

    b. Be compatible with the missions, directives, and agreements

under which member agencies must operate.

    c. Support, and be supported by the data standardization programs

of member agencies.

Consideration should be given to the many functional and economic aspects of

establishing, promulgating, and implementing standards.

        Richard Helms
    Director of Central Intelligence

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